

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

ANTHONY JOSEPH HART,

Petitioner, CIVIL CASE NO. 06-11796

v.

BLAINE LAFLER,

HONORABLE PAUL V. GADOLA  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Respondent.

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**ORDER OVERRULING PETITIONER'S OBJECTIONS AND ACCEPTING THE  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Before the Court are Petitioner's application for a writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge Paul J. Komives. In his Report and Recommendation, the Magistrate Judge recommended that the Court deny Petitioner's application for a writ of habeas corpus. Petitioner subsequently filed objections to the Report and Recommendation. For the reasons below, the Court overrules Petitioner's objections and accepts the Report and Recommendation as the opinion of this Court.

**I. Legal Standard**

The Court's standard of review for a Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation depends upon whether a party files objections. If a party does not object to the Report and Recommendation, the Court does not need to conduct a review by any standard. *See Lardie v. Birkett*, 221 F. Supp. 2d 806, 807 (E.D. Mich. 2002) (Gadola, J.). If a party does object to portions of the Report and Recommendation, the Court reviews those portions de novo. *Lardie*, 221 F. Supp. 2d at 807. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure dictate this standard of review in Rule 72(b), which states, in relevant part:

The district judge must determine de novo any part of the magistrate judge's

disposition that has been properly objected to. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommended disposition; receive further evidence; or return the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3). Here, because Petitioner filed objections, this Court reviews de novo those portions to which an objection has been made. *See Lardie*, 221 F. Supp. 2d. at 807.

De novo review in these circumstances requires at least a review of the evidence before the Magistrate Judge; the Court may not act solely on the basis of a Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation. *See* 12 Wright, Miller & Marcus, Federal Practice and Procedure: Civil 2d § 3070.2 (1997); *see also Hill v. Duriron Co.*, 656 F.2d 1208, 1215 (6th Cir. 1981). The Court may supplement the record by entertaining additional evidence, but is not required to do so. 12 Wright, Federal Practice § 3070.2. After reviewing the evidence, the Court is free to accept, reject, or modify the findings or recommendations of the Magistrate Judge. *See Lardie*, 221 F. Supp. 2d at 807. If the Court accepts a Report and Recommendation, the Court is not required to state with specificity what it reviewed; it is sufficient for the Court to state that it engaged in a de novo review of the record and adopts the Report and Recommendation. *See id.*; 12 Wright, Federal Practice § 3070.2.

## **II. Analysis**

On March 17, 2004, Petitioner was convicted of third degree criminal sexual conduct following a jury trial. On February 9, 2005, Petitioner was sentenced to a term of 12 to 30 years' imprisonment. Petitioner unsuccessfully appealed to the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court. Petitioner has now filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

In his Report and Recommendation, the Magistrate Judge concluded that Petitioner's

application should be denied. After reviewing Petitioner's objections and the Report and Recommendation, the Court finds that the conclusions of the Magistrate Judge are correct and his reasoning is sound. In particular, the Court finds that Petitioner is not entitled to habeas relief because the admission of bad acts evidence did not deny Petitioner a fair trial. Additionally, Petitioner's rights under the Confrontation Clause were not violated by the trial court's exclusion of the rape-shield evidence.

### **III. Conclusion**

Accordingly, after having reviewed the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, Petitioner's objections, and the applicable portions of the record, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Petitioner's objections [docket entry #22] to the Report and Recommendation are **OVERRULED**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Report and Recommendation [docket entry #21] is **ACCEPTED and ADOPTED** as the opinion of this Court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Petitioner's application for a writ of habeas corpus [docket entry #1] is **DENIED**.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: June 30, 2008

s/Paul V. Gadola  
HONORABLE PAUL V. GADOLA  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

#### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on June 30, 2008, I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

William C. Campbell, and I  
hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the paper to the  
following non-ECF participants: Anthony Hart.

s/Ruth A. Brissaud  
Ruth A. Brissaud, Case Manager  
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